

# The Hawaiian Star,

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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Frank L. Hoogs,

Editor

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## HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT.

There seems to be some vague and hazy notions as to the effect of the adoption of county government on the present system of government. Every day, almost, petitions are received by one or the other house of the legislature, in which the petitioners ask the legislature to pass the county bill, or to enact some particular measure into the county bill, and with this petition, and from the very same people are petitions asking that the legislature appropriate some thousands of dollars for roads and bridges, for a local park, for a court house, for a jail, or for some other strictly local improvement, which under county government would devolve on the county to provide.

There seems to be a very firm belief that in the matter of county government, localities may both have their cake and eat it; that they are to select and control all officials having any jurisdiction in their locality, to control the expenditure of all public funds, to "run" everything, but that the territory, every locality but their own, is to foot the bills.

There seems no clear comprehension of the fact that with county government the people of each county can have whatever improvements they want, but they must pay for them. They may make the whole county one superb park, if they choose, but they must foot the bills. Court houses as fine as statehouses may be built under county government, but each county must pay for its own indulgence.

Localities anxious for the inauguration of county government have a perfect right to petition the legislature to give it to them. But it would show a more comprehensive appreciation of what county government means, if they did not in the same petition ask the legislature to do something for them which they are importuning the legislature to give them the right to do themselves.

Senators and Representatives owe something to their constituents. But on the other hand, constituents owe something to their representatives. One of these duties or obligations is that they shall not ask of their representatives contradictory things, incompatible things. For to do so is to put the representative in the position of being compelled, as a matter of practical politics, to nicely balance what it is safest to do, since both the contradictory, the incompatible requests cannot be complied with. And it may easily happen that in the nice solution of this problem, with the hope of re-election in view, the representative may conclude it is best not to do anything.

These petitioning constituencies ought to recognize clearly that they cannot both have their cake and eat it; and if they want county government, they must take it with its burdens and limitations as well as with its benefits and advantages. If they want the territory to build them parks and roads and jails and court houses, they can't very well ask for complete local control of revenue as well.

## RUSSIA'S FINANCES.

The report of M. Sergins de Witte, Russian Minister of Finance, for 1903 gives the ordinary revenue at 1,897,032,678 roubles, the ordinary revenue thus showing a surplus of 16,627,449 roubles over the ordinary expenditure. The extraordinary expenditure, amounting to 191,262,243 roubles, will be covered by the surplus just mentioned, by the extraordinary revenue, amounting to 2,500,000 and by cash reserves in the Treasury to the amounts of 172,134,794 roubles. Whereas of late years, M. de Witte has always had the unpleasant duty of mentioning the unfavorable situation of Russia's economic position, he is this year able, for the first time in a long period, to give his assurance that the general conditions of Russian economy show evident signs of a change for the better. Among these conditions may in the first place be mentioned the good harvest of 1902, the total yield of grain having been higher than that for the best year in the last decade and having exceeded the average yield for that whole period by more than 27 per cent. It may be also noted that for the first time in Russian history the sum total of the revenue is over \$200,000,000. The expenses of the War Ministry in Kwangtung (Liaotung) peninsula are estimated to decrease from 7,088,538 roubles to 5,835,621 roubles.

The announcement that the Janet Waldorf company would present a comedy entitled, "The Wrong Mr. Wright," sounds like it must be a play with a local application.

The cabled information that King Edward has lost \$3,500 at cards should give added impressiveness to the maxim that no one ought to gamble who cannot afford to lose.

The Japanese papers give an account of the arrest and trial of a Russian swindler, who when first brought before the court offered to divulge Russian military secrets to Japan for 500 yen. When this was refused, he offered to divulge them for the price of passage to America, and finally reduced his offer to the price of passage to Hawaii. In the end, all his offers were refused and he was sentenced to three months imprisonment. This shows that even Russian military secrets sometimes become a drug on the market.

Congress and the legislatures of Forty-five states and three territories on the mainland, make provision for the accommodation of the press in their legislative halls, and in none of them is the freedom of the press ever questioned. It remained for members of the House in this Territory to threaten that right. But this is to be said in justice and to the credit of the House, that it was not the House itself, but only individual members of the House, that made threats.

One result of the journey of the Russian Minister of Finance to the Far East has been to settle the question of the future of Port Arthur. It is now declared that this will henceforth be wholly a fortification; the station of the main railway line is to be removed to some distance from its present position near the military works, and no ship, except ships of war, will in future be admitted into the port. The commercial port is to be Dalny, to which the main line of the Manchurian or Chinese Railway will be diverted, the present main line running to Port Arthur serving merely as a branch for the use of the Government. The great majority of the Russian business firms first established in Port Arthur have already been removed, or are removing, to Dalny, the future center of Russo-Chinese trade. The Russian Government moves its traders bodily, without compensation, when it desires to make military improvements.



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## NEEDED—MORE BABIES.

Why doesn't President Elliot, arrange to have the mathematics department at Harvard teach the students there to multiply and replenish the earth?—Boston Globe.

It did not occur to President Roosevelt that, when the scriptural command in regard to multiplication was given, the earth had not been taken up by the combines.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

President Roosevelt believes that it is the duty of American mothers and fathers to have large families of children. This is only one of the beliefs which make him a good American.—Cleveland Leader.

Naturally, it was expected that the President would rejoice in having six children, but who would have thought there was buried in his bosom such anger against those who haven't.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## CROAKS AND CRACKS.

It is rather rough on the kerosene consumers of America that they should have to dig up \$30,000,000 whenever Coal Oil Johnny gives a million away.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

There is a popular suspicion that the sickness which took Ambassador von Holleben home to Germany was a touch of rash, followed by king's evil.—Boston Globe.

Senator Vest may have hit upon the psychological moment in calling the Dingley tariff the "sacred elephant."—Springfield Republican.

Ratify the Cuban treaty at once and knock out another imaginary "issue."—Burlington Hawk-Eye.

The New York Times permits a correspondent to use half a column of its valuable space in urging the nomination of Speaker Henderson for Vice-President by the Republicans. The writer seems to have lost sight of the fact that General Henderson, having been born abroad, is not eligible.—Springfield Republican.

The boy king of Spain, prevented by etiquette from visiting the bedside of the dying statesman Sagasta, illustrates a phase of the medieval notion of royalty which no living nation of modern times can afford to perpetuate.—Montreal Star.

It looks as if Jackson Day has been allowed to slip by without the usual beating of Democratic tom-toms and things. What can be the matter? Are the times too prosperous to make Democratic feasts desirable?—Philadelphia Press.

## EDITORIAL SNAP SHOTS.

A good many of the anti-corporation laws being formulated are like the famous medicine which was guaranteed not to do the patient any harm, even if it did him no good.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The doctors tell King Edward that he has eaten and drunk too much. This means that Queen Nature has begun proceedings against Edward for lese majeste.—New York Mail and Express.

The only remarkable thing that we can see about Apostle Reed Smith, as judged from his published photograph, is that he ever managed to get as many women to marry him.—Atlanta Journal.

Any man who has any idea of going to Alaska should curb it until he can put enough in bank to get home on.—Birmingham Ledger.

The Government might be able to sink a good deal of money, judging

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A Three-Line Advertisement (15 words) will be inserted in the STAR'S Classified Columns for 25 cents. Each additional line at the rate of 10 cents extra.

Ads under "Situations Wanted," inserted free until further notice.

## For Sale

Some pure bred Plymouth Rocks; also some fine Brahmas; all from imported stock, cheap. Apply B. Keomuku, Lanai.

A magnificent building site on the Punchbowl slope near Thurston avenue. Particulars at Star office.

Building lot corner King and Kamehameha road. Palama terminus of Rapid Transit road. Apply at Star office.

## Furnished Rooms To Let

A nicely furnished front room. Mosquito proof and electric light. 494 Beretania near Punchbowl.

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Nicely furnished room with board in private family. Apply 494 Beretania street.

## Lost

A gold ring set with garnet stone on Beretania street between Punchbowl and Alapai streets. Finder will please return same to this office and receive reward.

A gold stick pin, the shape of a spider was lost on walk from Waikiki band stand to the Annex, or from there on cars to Punchbowl street. Return to this office and receive reward.

## Wanted.

Four white elevator boys at Moana Hotel. Apply to manager.

Boy from 15 to 20 years, as Messenger and Janitor. Salary 5 per week. Reply in own writing, stating age, conditions etc. R. B. care this office.

## The Pacific Hotel,

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from the submarine-boat scandal.—Knoxville Sentinel.

Paris is discussing the ethical tendencies of the cakewalk. Paris always was great on ethics.—Birmingham News.

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